

Appl. No. 10/698,314
Amdt. Dated February 28, 2006
Reply to Office Action of November 29, 2005

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Claim 1 (Currently Amended): A system for absorbing an impact energy, said system comprising:

first and second blow molded thermoplastic energy absorbing members;
each of said first and said second energy absorbing members having
opposing first and second walls defining a hollow space;
at least one pair of joined first and second ribs disposed within each said
first and said second energy absorbing members, said first rib being
integrally molded from said first wall, said second rib being
integrally molded from said second wall;
a welded surface disposed between said first and second ribs, said weld
surface joining said first and said second ribs; and
wherein said first and second energy absorbing members are aligned such
that said impact energy is distributed between said energy absorbing
members and absorbed by said energy absorbing members;
a projecting part is disposed in said first wall of said first energy
absorbing member, and a receiving part for receiving said
projecting part is disposed in the second wall of said second
energy absorbing member such that when said projecting part
mates with said receiving part, said first and said second impact
absorbing members are aligned.

Claim 2 (Original): The system according to claim 1, wherein said first energy absorbing member and said second energy absorbing member have different sizes.

Claim 3 (Original): The system according to claim 1, wherein said first energy absorbing member and said second energy absorbing member are aligned such

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that at least one said pair of ribs from said first energy absorbing member is aligned coaxially with at least one said pair of ribs from said second energy absorbing member.

Claim 4 (Original): The system according to claim 1, wherein said first energy absorbing member and said second energy absorbing member are interlocked with each other via a thin part.

Claim 5 (Canceled).

Claim 6 (Previously Presented): The system according to claim 1, wherein the receiving part is a recessed part.

Claim 7 (Previously Presented): The system according to claim 1, wherein the receiving part is a through hole.

Claim 8 (Original): The system according to claim 1, wherein an interlocking piece is disposed on at least one of said energy absorbing members in such a way as to align said first and second energy absorbing members

Claim 9 (Original): The system according to claim 8, wherein a projecting part is formed in said interlocking piece

Claim 10 (Original): The system according to claim 8, wherein a through hole is formed in said interlocking piece.

Claim 11 (Previously Presented): The system according to claim 8, wherein said interlocking piece is formed integrally on a side surface of at least one of said energy absorbing members via a thin part.

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Claim 12 (Previously Presented): The system according to claim 8, wherein said interlocking piece is formed in the vicinity of a parting line formed on a side surface linking said first and second wall of at least one of said energy absorbing members.

Claim 13 (Original): The system according to claim 8, wherein said interlocking piece is pressed and formed by a parting surface of a split mold during blow molding.

Claim 14 (Previously Presented): The system according to claim 8, wherein a plurality of said energy absorbing members are interlocked and fixed by fixing said interlocking piece to an adjacent at least one of said energy absorbing members.

Claim 15 (Previously Presented): The system according to claim 8, further comprising a stopping member coupling said interlocking piece to an adjacent at least one of said energy absorbing members.

Claim 16 (Previously Presented): The system according to claim 8, wherein a plurality of said energy absorbing members are interlocked and fixed by fitting said interlocking piece to an adjacent at least one of said energy absorbing members.

Claim 17 (Previously Presented): The system according to claim 8, wherein a plurality of said energy absorbing members are interlocked and fixed integrally by welding said interlocking piece to an adjacent at least one of said energy absorbing members.

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Claim 18 (Previously Presented): The system according to claim 8, wherein a plurality of the energy absorbing members are interlocked and fixed by coupling a first said interlocking piece from one said energy absorbing member to a second said interlocking piece from an adjacent at least one of said energy absorbing members.

Claim 19 (Original): The system according to claim 18, further comprising a stopping member inserted through said first and second interlocking pieces.

Claim 20 (Original): The system according to claim 18, wherein a plurality of said interlocking pieces are snapped together.

Claim 21 (Original): The system according to claim 18, wherein a plurality of said interlocking pieces are welded together.

Claim 22 (Previously Presented): The system according to claim 1, further comprising a stopping member inserted through at least one of said welded surfaces.

Claim 23-31(Canceled)